

Cover Sheet – Social Service Activity

RECEIVED SEP 16 2011

AGENCY NAME: Town of Amherst Leisure Services and Supplemental Education  
AGENCY ADDRESS: 70 Boltwood Walk, Bangs Community Center, Amherst, MA 01002  
AGENCY PHONE NO: (413) 259-3065 CONTACT PERSON: Linda Chalfant  
CONTACT PERSON EMAIL: chalfantl@amherstma.gov  
2012 CDBG REQUEST: \$77,221

1. Project Name

**Child Care Tuition Assistance**

2. Project Description (1-2 sentences)

**The purpose of the project is to provide child care tuition assistance for low and moderate income families so that school age children may have access to affordable after school programs.**

3. Project Location

**The after school programs will occur at the Town's public elementary schools, specifically Wildwood, Crocker Farm, Fort River Elementary Schools and the Bangs Community Center.**

4. Budget Request

**\$77,221**

5. Type of Activity (check one):

- ☐ Homelessness and sheltering
- ☒ Youth development and afterschool care
- ☐ Adult education and job training
- ☐ Emergency & preventive services: emergency rental assistance, emergency fuel assistance, emergency food and emergency shelter services that can include case management and coordination.
- ☐ Other – please explain

6. Demonstrate Consistency with Community Development Strategy

**Within the 2012 Community Development Strategy, the Childcare Tuition Assistance Project directly aligns with:**

**Priority #2, Category: Community Services**

***"Continue to make modifications and improvements based on the 2006 Transition Plan Update ensuring that all public and private facilities and programs are accessible to individuals of differing abilities....." This project will be holding all after school program activities in accessible locations including the Town of Amherst public schools and the Bangs Community Center and will provide accommodations for children with special needs to participate.***

**Priority #3, Category: Community Services**

*"Provide Social Services including but not limited to childcare tuition assistance and assistance for low/moderate income families to attend childcare and school-age afterschool programs, ....."* This project seeks to provide childcare tuition assistance to qualifying low/moderate income Amherst families so children may attend after school programs.

**Priority # 15, Category: Community Services**

*"Make available services known through affinity and neighborhood groups, electronic media, multi-lingual brochures and newsletters. [For example, job training for recent immigrants, additional ESL classes, health services, interpretation, transportation, childcare.]* The Childcare Tuition Assistance Project will provide child care tuition assistance services to affinity groups with assistance from the Amherst School Department, multi-lingual brochures, fliers and LSSE staff.

**Priority # 20 Sustainability**

*"Give special attention to diversity when addressing issues such as town growth and housing, social services and schools, arts, recreation, and teen or cultural center."* The Childcare Tuition Assistance Project will provide special attention to diversity, as it provides its array of recreation, arts, cultural and educational after school programming at the public Amherst elementary schools. LSSE will focus on a diverse staff and curriculum to assist with building connections to a diverse population.

**7. Describe how you will ensure that participants meet low/moderate income requirements.**

The Amherst Leisure Services and Supplemental Education Department, LSSE, is fortunate to have Town staff that are well versed in the grant income requirements and experienced in handling the outreach and intake responsibilities associated with the CDBG social services grant. LSSE staff will handle the preliminary intake and document retrieval and the Town's Community Services department will do the final certification with the participants for income eligibility.

LSSE will make the application available in many forms and will translate the application into Spanish and other languages as needed. LSSE staff is currently working collaboratively with school guidance staff, principals, faculty and the central administration office within the Amherst Schools to promote after school accessibility through the CDBG grant.

The Amherst Leisure Services and Supplemental Education Department, LSSE, has many years of experience in reaching out to low and moderate income families through our wide constituent base, varied year-round programs, quarterly direct mail brochure, website, word of mouth, etc.

## 8. National Objective

Benefit to low- and moderate-income persons

Estimate the number of low- and moderate-income persons to benefit from the Project:  
**45 school age children**

Total number of individuals served:**150**

Total Low/Mod individuals served: **45**

**Please submit responses to the following questions:**

### **A. Please describe in full the project for which you are requesting funding:**

Include information on the number of individuals or families to be served and who they are, i.e. disabled, low-income, homeless, etc.

**The Town of Amherst Leisure Services and Supplemental Education, LSSE, embraces the opportunity to offer a proposal to the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee, CDBG, for social services funding through the 2012 Community Development Block Grant. LSSE respectfully requests an expansion of an existing service with this proposal for the 2012 CDBG funding year. To understand our interest in expanding next year's program it may be valuable to review the goals that were met and to consider the constituents that were served with the CDBG funding cycle that just concluded.**

**Our 2011 CDBG goal was to fund 28 children to attend LSSE's childcare programs and to provide families varying amounts of financial support based on the grant's low and moderate income eligibility guidelines. The CDBG grant awarded for Child Care Tuition Assistance made it possible to support low to moderate income Amherst families and children that would not have been served without the benefit of this important funding. A total of 32 children received assistance to attend the Prime Time After School Program at two elementary school sites. A total of 26 children were aided in attending Winter and Spring Vacation Camps and 27 children received financial assistance to participate in our School's Out Trips Program.**

**Given the vital need for child care services, the key collaboration with the Amherst School Department and the growing interest in this service; LSSE proposes expanding the program from 28 to 45 children to allow for more wide spread participation in the Town's After School Program.**

**Our proposal, the Child Care Tuition Assistance Project, requests funding to continue this past year's success and to expand participation at our current sites**

while developing participation at a third site, the Capacidad After School Program at Fort River Elementary School.

Our request for growth comes with the understanding that this year an Amherst Public School led process is in place to ensure access and to foster the highest quality of after school care throughout each of the afterschool programs. A school survey conducted last May of all of the after school programs revealed that LSSE's Prime Time After School Program, along with other Amherst after school programs, enjoyed strong parent satisfaction. LSSE's collaboration with the Amherst School Department also presented a unique opportunity to reach out to the Cambodian community. Through a pilot project LSSE provided participation for 19 low and moderate income children from Cambodian Affinity Groups.

Overall our goal with increased access to afterschool programming is to ensure participation in a child care program that balances academic support, arts and enrichment programming, field trips, a nutritious after school snack, outdoor exercise and a safe and healthy alternative to staying home alone after school.

While many Amherst families routinely enjoy opportunities to send their children to an afterschool program, other families are left behind. Funding this proposal will serve families in many desperate and difficult situations. Elementary school age children from families of varying sizes with low and moderate incomes that are homeless or impoverished, struggling to hold jobs, seeking employment, supporting a child with a disability, furthering their education, and more were all assisted in this past year and would continue to be assisted with this proposal.

Families in need are routinely referred to LSSE through the Amherst Public School's outreach, special education and guidance offices and through collaborative partnerships with agencies such as Hampshire County's homeless shelter, Jessie's House. Families supported by LSSE's afterschool program are connected to a wide range of protective and essential services through information and referral to local social service agencies and the Town's cadre of educational, recreational and health and community service offices. Funding this proposal will directly advance childcare availability and provide greater education and outreach to families. Funding this proposal will also link families to a large community of support systems directly managed within LSSE. LSSE summer camp, sports programs and educational opportunities provide easy access to other Town assistance and will help families build a contact and support base by linking with the members of LSSE's widespread community programs.

Our childcare hours of operation for the weekday afterschool programs are as follows: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 3-5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 1:00 to 5:30 p.m. throughout the school year. We have also

added a 6:00 p.m. option for parents that may need the additional commute time from work or school. Vacation camps operate for one week in the winter and spring and School's Out Trips are scheduled for whole day child care during holidays and school curriculum preparation days.

This proposal would support 45 children from low and moderate income families with free or reduced fee tuition assistance for childcare in ongoing academic year after school programs. This represents an expansion from the current plan which supports 28 children. This program would directly benefit children whose families cannot afford to pay or fully pay for childcare services.

**B. What is the community's need for the proposed project/program?**

Define the need or problem to be addressed by the proposed project. Explain why the project is important. Provide evidence of the severity of the need or problem. Who the affected population and why is this population presently underserved or not served?

Last year nearly 40 % of the 1,300 children attending an Amherst Elementary School qualified for free or reduced lunch, according to federal guidelines. The school lunch statistics are a strong representation of Amherst's poverty but unfortunately not the only example. The 520 children that are indicated in the free and reduced lunch record show up in other alarming statistics witnessed by the Amherst's Schools on a daily basis.

Along with the rest of our country, single family headed households, an increase in unemployment and an increase of homelessness issues are all emerging in our community. A greater reliance on fuel assistance, the absence of enough affordable housing, last winter's activation of a warming shelter, the advanced number of adults and families visiting the Amherst Survival Center and other factors when coupled with the local and national long term recession, all point to a community with recognizable economic problems.

Children whose families have lost a job or a home may experience a sense of isolation, depression and a loss of community. Burdens at home can be carried to school and affect academic achievement and present discipline issues. Support from a caring adult and educationally and engaging activities of the type that are nurtured in a quality, reliable after school child care setting can ease transitions, motivate learning, strengthen a sense of belonging, provide healthy alternatives to the lure of drug and alcohol abuse, and assure a safe alternative to staying home alone.

Children from families with single parent households and children from families with dual working parent households all share a need for affordable afterschool childcare. While keeping a job becomes harder in a recession, holding it without reliable childcare either puts the child at risk or the entire family's financial

support at risk if parents cannot remain at work beyond the traditional end of a school day. Affordable childcare routinely acts as an economic stabilizer and poverty prevention service. When families lose a job, poverty grows leaving an even greater need and cost for advanced emergency services.

Amherst is the site of the University of Massachusetts and several community colleges are in neighboring cities and towns. The LSSE Child Care Program strives to serve parents that are students, many of them struggling to continue their education and economically support their families. The proximity of these educational institutions expands the possibility of educational and career advancement when affordable childcare is available. Amherst parents attending school and working parents share similar childcare challenges and this increases the need for affordable programs. Parents who are students have less opportunity to work and therefore their income is often negatively affected limiting their ability to pay for childcare expenses.

Public school has been in session just two weeks but LSSE's enrollment of children qualifying for CDBG assistance is on par with the enrollment achieved last year within the first two months. It is our expectation that After School programs will grow significantly as we are seeing last year's families returning to complete CDBG intake applications and new families contacting us daily. The success of last year's program is circulating through positive word of mouth within many diverse communities. Continued requests for tuition assistance from school personnel, social service providers and inquiring parents reflects the unmet need. We currently have 19 children enrolled with financial aid assistance.

### **C. Community Involvement**

What process was used to select this particular project? How was the process responsive to expressed community need?

This project was chosen after discussions and input with the Town Manager, the Superintendent of Schools, the Director of ELE and Intervention, the Amherst Community Services Director, the Director of Conservation and Development, the Amherst Leisure Services and Supplemental Education Commission, the Select Board liaison to the LSSE Commission, school guidance staff, social service agency staff, numerous parents of children currently attending LSSE's childcare programs and parents who anticipate applying for financial assistance for the first time this year.

On August 10, 2011, the Amherst Leisure Services and Supplemental Education Commission unanimously endorsed LSSE's request to apply for Community Development Block Grant social service funding for the Child Care Tuition Assistance Program.

**Amherst's Director of ELE and Intervention, Dr. Marta Guevara, recently attended the Planning Board's August 3, 2011 public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant Strategy. Dr. Guevara spoke eloquently of the need to place low and moderate income families at the forefront of the discussion and to strongly support funding for children's services.**

**This project is responsive to the community's requested need in that approved CDBG funding would sustain funding available for tuition assistance and meet community needs for additional affordable childcare.**

Define the process that will be used to maintain involvement of the project beneficiaries in the implementation of the project.

**Project beneficiaries will be engaged in the implementation of the project at many levels. New families and currently enrolled families will learn about the availability of continued child care tuition assistance in numerous ways including: direct household mailings, the LSSE brochure, the LSSE and Town website, e-mail messages and through school outreach and guidance staff, through social service agency contacts, school announcements on websites and blogs and in LSSE's current programs. Families will also learn of ways to link with other LSSE programs through fliers, calendars and announcements at the program site.**

**Project beneficiaries will serve on after school advisory and program boards and participate in focus group discussions for increased feedback and to exchange ideas. Parent input is regularly passed from parents to childcare program directors and staff during the end of day child pick-up period. Conversations that are started in the often quick daily goodbyes get followed up with more in-depth telephone conversations between staff and parents at a later time. The childcare programs host special events that connect project beneficiaries in a relaxed atmosphere during holidays and performances and open house programs. Written program evaluations are offered to parents for feedback that they may wish to give in an anonymous manner.**

#### **D. Project Feasibility**

The project impact will be evaluated upon the extent to which the response meets the following criteria:

1. Describe what evidence exists to show that the community at large or project beneficiaries will use the project. Include documentation of demand for the activity through summary descriptions of surveys, inquiries, waiting lists or past participation.

**Please see the attached Appendices A and B with excerpts supporting project**

feasibility and goals and objectives from the Amherst Master Plan.

It is just two weeks since school has started and our early look at this year's CDBG supported after school enrollment, gives strong indication that families want and need after school child care programs. Our CDBG family applicants match the number enrolled last year after 2 months of school. We are receiving requests and inquiries daily from families interested in the child care financial aid assistance.

Last year our enrollment of 32 children for After School Child Care Tuition Assistance exceeded our initial program goal of supporting 28 children with financial assistance. Our enrollment in LSSE's other child care programs added 53 more children to the number served through one week vacation camp and curriculum day programs.

Within the 2012 Community Development Strategy and under the heading of *Community Services*, a statement exists in the first paragraph that supports the need and program alignment "*....Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are used to support the daily operations of a number of social service agencies, including after school programs for low-and moderate income families,.....*"

The support for the Child Care Tuition Assistance is also supported in the list of FY 2012 Priority Projects including #3 Community Services, #2 Community Services, #15 Community Services and #20 Sustainability where references are made to accessible provisions for child care programs.

2. If applicable, describe and document the availability and source of matching or other funds needed to complete the project.

The LSSE Department will work to raise additional subsidy revenue through a letter writing campaign to community members and local businesses. In the past LSSE has been the beneficiary of small local gifts earmarked to assist low to moderate income families from individual and business sources. LSSE childcare programs are voucher eligible. LSSE has assisted families with the acceptance of state vouchers. LSSE has reliably covered a yearly supplanting fee with raised and Town subsidy funds.

3. Identify the roles and responsibilities of all personnel involved in the project as well as internal controls.

Linda Chalfant, LSSE Director, has served as Department Director for 21 of the 24 years that she has worked for the Town of Amherst. She is the supervisor to



the Youth Program Director; manages the department budget, grants, public relations, outreach, sustainability and capital projects. Prior experience has included additional municipal experience, higher education, and social services. Linda Chalfant has a Masters degree in Parks and Recreation Administration.

Stacey LeCuvre, LSSE Youth Program Director, has been employed with the Town since 1995. Stacey supervises the LSSE Child Care Program staff, special needs, plans and promotes the program, develops and monitors the program budget, handles scheduling, provides on-site leadership and manages facility issues for the program site. Stacey began her work at LSSE as a Director of our Prime Time After School Program. Stacey holds a Bachelors degree in Sociology.

Gail Weston, LSSE's Financial Manager, has worked for the Town since 2002 and administers the bills, payroll, financial projections, and monitoring of accounts, records and oversees the department registration area. Gail administers the initial intake for many of our CDBG recipients and works alongside the Community Services Department Grant Administrator.

Donna Roy, LSSE Marketing and Registration Supervisor has worked for the Town since 1999 and holds a Bachelors degree in Business Administration. Donna manages the LSSE Front Desk Information and Registration area, and also handles department information technology, marketing, the website and the quarterly LSSE brochure. Donna assists with promotion of the Childcare Tuition Assistance programs, program registrations, cash flow and records.

LSSE Child Care Leaders supervise the children in all LSSE Child Care activities and plan and lead participants in a variety of after school programs. Staff is experienced in child care programming, routinely receive additional training in child care practices and are often involved with LSSE's summer childcare programs providing continuity of service for families. All staff is First Aid and CPR certified, and follows Commonwealth of Massachusetts child care regulations.

4. Citing past accomplishments, document that the agency has the necessary past expertise to conduct the activity and has successfully completed past activities in a timely manner.

LSSE staff has direct experience managing two CDBG grants in the last 1.5 years and we are currently managing a third grant. LSSE has administered private foundation and state grants over the years with successful results. This past spring we received a Xeric Foundation Grant to offer financial assistance to low and moderate income families for children to participate in week-long art camps. We met our both our fundraising and outreach goals and local children participated in a positive summer art camp experience.

The LSSE Department administers a budget of more than 1.9 million consisting of a

physical plant that includes an outdoor aquatics program and swimming facilities, a 9 hole golf course, tennis courts, basketball courts and a 1.1 million revolving account program budget that is supported almost entirely with generated program revenue.

Throughout LSSE's history thousands of families and children have benefitted from the stimulating selection of year round programs including summer camps, arts programming, youth and adult education classes, special events, sports activities and child care programs offered each season throughout the year. LSSE's program offerings include all age groups from infants to senior citizens but the strongest emphasis is on school age children.

LSSE is proud to have operated two long standing eight week summer day camp programs known as Adventure Playground (ages 7-11) and Early Adventures (ages 5-6) for more than 30 years. The Adventure Playground Program was expanded this summer to include an enriching partnership with the Amherst School Department's Achievement Academy.

The Achievement Academy was held at the Crocker Farm Elementary school this summer and provided academic assistance to elementary age children many of whom were children from low and moderate income families. LSSE and the School Department successfully managed this half day camp/half academic summer program together for three weeks. 120 children attended the LSSE's camp with a large number of children attending from families where English was not the first language. This successful Adventure Playground and Achievement Academy partnership was a first camp experience for the majority of families.

This year throughout our 8 weeks of summer camp program operation, LSSE safely managed programs that attracted more than 1,500 children. Children from families of low and moderate income were assisted through a Town supported fee subsidy program that has provided subsidies to 230 households. This program continues, to support low and moderate income families utilizing all of LSSE's activities although the subsidy has been reduced in recent years.

5. Please submit a program budget that includes all sources of revenue and all expenses.

Please see the attached program budget and our request to fund an expanded LSSE Childcare Tuition Assistance Program.

E. Impact

Describe the impact the activity will have on the specifically identified needs. What measurable improvements will result from the activity? How much of the need will be addressed? Define the direct and indirect outcomes that will result from the project. Identify quantitative and qualitative measures determine that the outcomes are achieved.

**The impact of supporting the LSSE Child Care program can be seen in the following ways:**

**Direct Outcomes**

- (1) Participant access to the Fort River Elementary School's Capacidad After School Program which would provide access to affordable after school tuition assistance to families in another part of the community.**
- (2) Access to safe, affordable child care that will provide:**
  - Support for families to attend work**
  - Support for families means to look for work**
  - Support for families to further their education**
- (3) Awareness of Town and human service supports**
- (4) Ability for after school participants to engage in and practice activities that may have been reduced from school programs or unavailable at home.**
- (5) Children will receive enriching experiences that may otherwise not be accessible to them- trips, outings, performances, etc.**
- (6) Children will engage in additional exercise and health programs including outdoor exercise**
- (7) Opportunities provided for issues that may show up earlier in the school day that can then be discussed and processed in an afterschool setting**
- (8) A decrease in juvenile crime during the after school hours**
- (9) Stronger academic performance and student interest in school work related to homework assistance, group reading and exposure to new skills**

**Indirect Outcomes**

- (1) Improved quality of life for family**
- (2) Advanced sense of community for child and family**
- (3) Improved connection for students with school environment**
- (4) Ability for students to excel in a non classroom, more experiential setting**
- (5) Increased practice for children to learn to work cooperatively with others**
- (6) Positive after school role models may help influence a child's desire to attend school.**

**F. Evaluation**

Goals & Assessments: Please explain your short-term goals and long-term goals. Describe the changes in the target population that indicate the program's success. How will these changes be measured? Will anticipated changes affect the municipality's responsibility to this target population? How will the impact of this service on individual clients be tracked over time? Will there be additional beneficiaries? Will this service enable clients to become self-sufficient? How is this service linked to other human/social service programs in the community?

**Documented interviews with families, other social service providers, police department and school staff can help identify results to the above named outcomes. Surveys conducted at the beginning of the school year, midway and at the end of the school year to register parent satisfaction, concerns and sense of progress can assist with level of outcome progress.**

**Additional beneficiaries will include all those connected with the family. The child or children will be supported with safe enriching programs and nonschool age children and other members of the family will be beneficiaries as well. If parents can continue an education, look for work, attend work or receive respite while a child is receiving after school care the entire family will be served. If the afterschool care permits a parent to keep a job or improve their skills and education the entire financial outlook for a family will improve.**

**These anticipated outcomes for families will serve the wider community. A family that finds itself more economically sufficient will have less reliance on governmental and human service agencies for support. Families that are self reliant allow human service agencies and governmental agencies to move through program waiting lists and extend limited funds to others. Government and human service agencies may have less responsibility for families as family incomes are stabilized.**

#### G. Agency Information

Please provide an overview of your organization, including length of time in existence, experience in successfully conducting activities for which funding is being sought, and skills and current services that reflect capacity for success.

**LSSE is a longstanding municipal department within the Town of Amherst that provides a comprehensive mix of programs, services and facilities for recreation, educational and cultural purposes to upwards of 50,000 individual, youth and seniors per year. We are guided by an appointed LSSE Commission of local citizens and various committees and ad hoc groups to assist in supporting our work. LSSE Commissioners and staff serve on a number of linked community service organizations and committees helping each to connect with the larger community. Some existing partnerships and memberships include: the Community Preservation Committee, the Kendrick Park Committee, The Afterschool Director's Committee, the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce, the Amherst College Center for**

**Community Engagement, Amherst Human Services Network, the Amherst Senior Center, the City of Springfield Department of Elder Affairs, the Valley Light Opera, and many youth serving organizations.**

**We have credible long term affiliations and partnerships with the public schools, colleges, and University, businesses and community members. The LSSE Department has been successfully offering programs to children and families since 1982 as the Amherst Leisure Services and Supplemental Education Department and prior to that as the Amherst Recreation Department dating back to the 1950's.**

**The LSSE Department has operated a licensed child care program since 1995. The LSSE Department has operated child care focused summer day camps since the 1980's.**

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Amherst Leisure Services and Supplemental Education  
 Child Care Programs - FY 13 Budget  
 Community Development Block Grant Funds

Original

LSSE Child Care Programs - FY 13	AMOUNT
REVENUE	
Voucher/Full Pay/FeeSubsidy Children	
Total Revenue for 8 Fulltime Voucher Children	\$17,200
Total Revenue for nine 50% Fee Subsidy Children	\$10,000
Total Revenue for 88 Full Pay Children	\$119,073
Subtotal	\$146,273
Block Grant Revenue	
Total CDBG Participant Fees for 10 month Afterschool	\$84,353
Less Supplanting Requirement	-\$7,132
CDBG Request	\$77,221
Total LSSE Child Care Revenue	\$223,494
Total number of children served: 150	
Total number of children w/CDBG served: 45	
After School Fee Structure:	
Fulltime: \$215	
One Day per Week: \$40	
Wednesday: \$70	
9/15/2011	

LSSE Child Care Programs - FY 13	AMOUNT	COMMENTS
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<i>Personnel</i>		
LSSE Director	\$5,350	Responsibilities: program director supervision, outreach, grant management, budget
Program Director	\$19,850	Program supervision, staff training, program curriculum, parent involvement, facility inspections
Operations Manager	\$5,700	Bills, payroll, records, budget analysis, projections, applicant intake assistance
Registration & Marketing Supervisor	\$2,200	Registration of participants, promotion, information technology
Program Leadership ( staff)	\$145,581	Program delivery to children
Subtotal	\$178,681	
<i>Fringe Benefits (FT)</i>	\$11,045	
<b>Total Personnel &amp; Fringe Benefits</b>	<b>\$189,726</b>	
<i>Other Expenses</i>		
Advertising/Travel	\$5,825	
Licenses & Permits	\$1,196	State license from Early Education and Childcare
Field Trip Admissions	\$3,800	Entrance fees for local field trips, outings, visiting artists, transportation
Program Supplies/Food/First Aid	\$22,947	Program supplies, art materials, books, games, sports equipment
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$33,768</b>	
<b>Total Personnel &amp; Expenses</b>	<b>\$223,494</b>	
Total number of children served: 150		
Total number of children w/CDBG served: 45		
9/15/2011		

## APPENDIX A

### Supplement to D. *Project Feasibility*

#### **Amherst Master Plan-Alignment with CDBG Proposal** *Objectives and strategies that will support the services and facilities goals for the Town*

##### **Section 8.6 (Page 90)**

**S.3.B Continue to use Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and other available sources of revenue to help low and moderate-income families pay for childcare services.** Access to affordable childcare is a necessity for many working families. The Town should continue to use Community Development Block Grant funds and other available funds to make childcare services more affordable to low and moderate-income families.

**S.3.D Help support social service agencies by encouraging communication, coordination, collaboration, and accountability. Seek funding to support priority services for Amherst residents in need.** Inter-agency collaboration can lead to more efficient and effective provision of social services in Amherst. When allocating funding, priority should be placed on those programs that meet the needs of low-income residents and other citizens in need.

##### **Section 2.4 (Page 10)**

**Provide community services to meet the needs of all residents.** Amherst is becoming an increasingly diverse community in terms of ethnicity, age, income, education, physical ability, and in many other ways. Amherst's services and facilities must keep pace with the population's changing needs, including maintaining its historically strong schools, planning for needed fire department, public works, school, library, and recreation facilities, and providing critical social support services.

##### **Section 2.8 & 8.1 (Pages 14 & 85)**

**Services and Facilities:** To provide excellent, cost effective, accessible facilities, services, and programs reflecting values respectful of our ages and our diversity, which, through collaboration, contribute to a high quality safe, civil, healthy, and sustainable community.

- Deliver high quality public safety services.
- Deliver high quality education from pre-school through grade 12.
- Provide high quality facilities, services, and programs that serve the needs of all the people of Amherst.



### Section 8.1 (Page 85)

The Town has a strong interest in continuing to provide high-quality services including police, fire, public education, libraries, and **social services**, among others. Alternative funding sources and creative partnerships need to be pursued to ensure that these services continue to meet the high standards of community members.

### Section 8.2 (Page 86)

**Community services:** Amherst provides a wide range of community services including health services, recreation programs, information on childcare and early education, emergency assistance to low-income families, and support services for seniors, children, and veterans. **Many of these services are housed in the Bangs Community Center.**

### Section 8.5 (Page 89)

**OBJECTIVE S.3 – Provide high quality facilities, services, and programs that serve the needs of all the people of Amherst.** A diverse population base necessitates diversity in the services and programs provided within the community. To provide these services, the Town needs to provide adequate personnel and material

### Section 8.7 (Pages 91-92)

**S.3.I Support LSSE and its program of recreation and leisure activities for Amherst residents of all ages.** Recreation opportunities and leisure activities contribute to the quality of life in Amherst. In accordance with the objectives and strategies addressed in Chapter 7, Open Space and Recreation, the Town should support the improvement, expansion, and maintenance of recreational facilities, athletic programs, and cultural events for residents of all ages.

The Town should:

- a. Provide activities for youth that support a physically healthy, socially-responsible lifestyle.
- b. Develop an inventory of available community facilities and public meeting space (e.g., Library community spaces, school buildings).
- c. Develop a multi-purpose community/recreational facility (see LSSE Master Plan).
- d. Explore possible uses of the old landfill for recreation or other purposes. See O.3.D.
- e. Construct public restrooms at Kiwanis Park, Plum Brook soccer fields and other public areas.

## APPENDIX B

### Supplement to *D. Project Feasibility*

#### Ideas for the Future

#### Community Quotes from "Planning Amherst Together": Idea Gathering

List #	Date	Comment
2889	10/18/2006	Low cost childcare that is subsidized
2959	10/18/2006	Satellite early childhood programs throughout town pre K-2nd grade
3621	10/12/2006	Pay attention to women and children -more protection needed. Attention is needed to protect them from the impact of poverty
3609	10/12/2006	Promote increased participation (outreach by town) of international students, immigrants, and migrants
2988	10/18/2006	Expand after school programs to keep children active and engages and improve and make widely available early child care facilities
3673	10/12/2006	Small schools that provide many options for children and teens other than traditional classes with an emphasis on community service
3362	10/14/2006	Support families with young children - a clearinghouse of services for those families
3370	10/14/2006	A haven for foster children and parents, social services provided
3368	10/14/2006	Public schools share resources with homeschoolers
3014	10/18/2006	After school program/children's center
3044	10/18/2006	More services for families with young children
3025	10/18/2006	Day care available for all who need this (young kids program)
3209	10/18/2006	A place to do stuff after school
2857	10/18/2006	More after school activities on all levels
3774	10/20/2006	Eliminate fees for school activities, during and after school